WOAH! IT'S LIKE A TINY SOLAR SYSTEM IS ACTUALLY FLOATING THERE!!

IT LOOKS LIKE THE FIGHTING SPREADS OUT OVER A FAIRLY WIDE AREA. PLEASE CONFIRM THIS.

IF WE TURN THE 3D SPACE MAP IMAGE, WE CAN SEE THE BATTLE IS OUTSIDE SATURN'S RINGS...NEAR TITAN.

I'M GOING TO CHANGE INTO MY PROTECTIVE SUIT. WAIT FIFTEEN MINUTES YAMORI.

I'LL BE PILOTING. ALL PREPARATIONS FOR TAKEOFF ARE COMPLETE.

UMM...??

...WAH!

I'M GONNA ASK YAYOI DIRECTLY.

AREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO GAVE ME THIS LOOSE-FITTING THING?

THERE AREN'T ANY CLOTHES THAT FIT YOU PROPERLY. I'M SORRY.

LET ME GO WITH YOU.

OKAY...

IF YOU WANT TO COME WITH US, FIRST YOU HAVE TO TAKE A PROPER BATH.

THIS TIME I'LL CONTROL THE MACHINE, SO YOU'LL BE FINE.

EH...

SECOND, YOU HAVE TO BECOME A GENIUS AGAIN!!

I'M NOT OKAY AT ALL.

ARE YOU OKAY, HASHIME? I'M STARTING.

FUEHH

HASHIME

WHERE DOES IT FEEL LIKE YOU ARE RIGHT NOW?

IT'S LIKE I'M FLOATING UPSIDE DOWN IN A VAST SPACE.

THINK OF IT AS AN AERODROME OR A SPACEPORT.

AERO-DROME?

THIS ELEVA-TOR LEADS TO THE LANDING PAD ON THE LOWEST LEVEL.

APPARENTLY IT WENT WELL THIS TIME. BUT THE RESULT WON'T BE ACHIEVED EASILY.

LAND ING PAD

HUH?

D- DEPART-ING? MIRAI!!

THOSE TWO ARE DEPARTING FOR JUPITER.

HEY...HASHEMI! YAYOI! WHERE HAVE YOU GONE OFF TO?

WHAT WILL I DO THERE?

TO THE OB-SERVATORY?

PROFESSOR, YOU SHOULD PRO-CEED TO THE OBSERVATORY.

VIEW EARTH AND LA-METAL?

YOU WILL OB-SERVE EARTH AND LA-METAL.

EH. WE'RE GOING BACK INTO A BATH HERE!?

NOW, HASHIME. OFF WITH THOSE CLOTHES.

WE CANNOT CONTINUE ANY FURTHER WEARING CLOTHES.

SO...INSIDE THIS AERODROME ARE GIANT BATHS...OR MAYBE POOLS...

ALL THE PLANES IN THIS BLOCK ARE ANTIQUES. WE CAN'T USE THEM.

WHAT AN AMAZING FUSELAGE...

LOOK OVER THERE HASHIME.

ANTIQUE... LIKE FROM 1980 I GUESS.

ONE OF THOSE FAMOUS OLD ZERO FIGHTERS!?

AND THAT ONE'S A MESSERSCHMIDT, ISN'T IT!!

THEY'RE ALL IN MINT CONDITION... LIKE NEW!!

ALL THE FAMOUS AIR-CRAFT THROUGHOUT HISTORY ARE HERE.

DIFFERENT? YOU MEAN WE'RE GOING LIKE THIS?

THEY WORE FLIGHT SUITS TO FLY PLANES IN THE OLD DAYS, BUT WE'RE DIFFERENT.

THIS IS GREAT, BUT BEING NAKED IN A PLACE LIKE THIS MAKES ME UNEASY.

THERE. WE ARE RIDING THE NEWEST STYLE.

IS THIS A SHIP? SOME KIND OF FLYING MA-CHINE? OR MAYBE...

IS THERE SOME KIND OF BATHTUB UFO?

FU FU...THAT ISN'T ENTIRE-LY WRONG.

WE ARE GOING TO LA-METAL.

SO I CAN OBSERVE EARTH AND LA-METAL FROM HERE. WHAT NOW?

YOU MEAN BE-CAUSE IT IS IN THE MIDDLE OF ITS APPROACH?

GOING TO LA-METAL?

THIS CAVESHIP... THIS ASTEROID SHIP ITSELF WILL TRAVEL TO LA-METAL.

TELE-PHONE

YOU MEAN WITH TOKYO RIDING ON TOP OF US?

AND...IT'S A REALLY WEIRD FLYING MA-CHINE...

I THOUGHT I WAS GOING WITH YAYOI IN A SPACESHIP, BUT WE'RE JUST NOW CLAMBERING ABOARD...

EH...UNCLE? JUST NOW I'VE BEEN WANDER-ING NAKED AROUND SOME AIRPLANES.

HEY THERE HASHIME. WHAT'S UP? EH? HUH?

YOURS IS THAT ONE OVER THERE.

HASHIME! WE DON'T HAVE ANY TIME. HURRY ON ABOARD.

A SHIP...?

SO I GUESS IT IS A BATH AFTER ALL.

THE TEMPERATURE MATCHES YOUR BODY TEMPERATURE, SO YOU'LL BE FINE. JUST GET INSIDE WITHOUT FUSSING.

I SEE. IT'S A NICE TEPID BATH.

ALRIGHT I'M ALL THE WAY IN. LOOK!

EH?

WAH

AH...AHH!!

dark

YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING. WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE LID ON THIS THING CLOSES?

...AH...AH. I CAN'T KEEP BREATHING.

THE WATER IS RISING!! IT'S GETTING FULL!

HELP ME!!

HASHIME!!

EH...UH-HUH. I HEAR YOU.

YOU CAN HEAR ME, CAN'T YOU? HASHIME!!

.....

HASHIME!! GET YOURSELF TO-GETHER.

THIS FLIGHT CONTROLLER IS CALLED A "LIQUID COCKPIT".

OH. THAT'S WEIRD. EVEN THOUGH I'M COMPLETELY SUB-MERGED IN THE WATER, I DON'T FEEL ANY DISTRESS.

THINK FROM THE HEART...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO SPEAK OUT LOUD. IF YOU ARE COMPLETELY AT REST AND THINK TO ME FROM YOUR HEART, I'LL HEAR YOU.

LIQUID COCKPIT!?

...CALM DOWN...I'M SEEING...INDEED I'M SEEING SOME-THING AROUND ME!! I CAN SEE IT...

NOW...AS SOON AS YOU CALM DOWN...YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE AROUND YOURSELF...

I WONDER HOW IT WORKS. I CAN SEE CLEARLY EV-ERYTHING AROUND ME!!...IT'S LIKE THIS SHIP HAS BECOME MY BODY!!

CORRECT...IF YOU FEEL THE INSECTA SHIP AS THOUGH IT WERE YOUR OWN BODY YOU CAN OPERATE IT FREELY. FLOATING INSIDE THE LIQUID COCKPIT ALLOWS YOU TO ASSIMILATE...

NOW, HASHIME. WE WILL BEGIN TO MOVE.

GENTLY...

FLY-ING...

DON'T GO TO SLEEP...STAY WITH ME.

THIS FEELS SO NICE!! LIKE I'M IN HEAVEN.

INTO SPACE? HASHIME?

HASHIME'S SHIP HAS FLOWN INTO SPACE.

CAREFUL NOT TO HIT ANY CRAGS. CIRCLE BELOW AND START RISING FROM HORIZONTAL IN THE AREA OF NERIMA WARD.

...?

THAT'S WHY THEY'RE CALLED "INSECTA SHIPS".

THAT!? IT'S LIKE THEY'RE BOTH BUGS!!

PROFESSOR AMAMORI IS PROBABLY SURPRISED, ISN'T HE HASHIME?

HE'LL PROBABLY BE LETTING LOOSE SOME CHOICE WORDS ABOUT NOW.

WHAT'S UP HASHIME? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

I DIDN'T TELL HIM I WAS LEAVING, SO HE'S PROBABLY ANGRY.

I'M GONNA SAY HI TO UNCLE.

Uuah

?

HAHA. THAT MUST'VE BEEN HASHIME. IT'S JUST LIKE SOMETHING HE'D DO.

I'D LIKE TO BE PAMPERED LIKE THAT.

THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN HER ENJOYING A DEPARTURE SO MUCH.

HIS FEELINGS SEEM TO HAVE REACHED THE QUEEN. SHE HAS COMPLETELY COME OUT OF HER SHELL.

I THINK HE KNEW IT WAS ME.

HE WAS SURPRISED ALL RIGHT.

SO HOW DID THE PROFESSOR REACT?

NEAR TITAN?

A COMBAT AREA THAT'S A KILLING FIELD...

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

NOW, HASHIME, OFF WE GO.

I'M SPEEDING UP. CAREFUL NOT TO HIT ANY ASTEROIDS.

I'VE OFTEN HAD FLYING DREAMS LIKE THIS. IT'S ALMOST THE SAME.

I'VE BEEN LEFT BEHIND...

YES, I'VE HEARD OF THAT, BUT WHAT KIND OF FUEL...OH, YAMORI!!

IT'S A TOTALLY AUTOMATED SYSTEM THAT RESPONDS TO BRAIN WAVES.

THEY'RE REALLY GOING FAST. WHAT KIND OF MECHANISM GIVES THEM THAT SPEED?

I DON'T THINK SHE FULLY TRUSTS ME...AT LEAST NOT AS MUCH AS HASHIME.

SHE FORGOT ABOUT ME AND DEPARTED WITH THAT IDIOT JUST LIKE THAT. IT'S STRANGE.

I THOUGHT FOR SURE YOU'RE BE GOING TOO...

I HAVE?

YOU'VE SEEN IT BEFORE.

IT APPEARS YOU'VE TAKEN AN INTEREST IN THE ENERGY SOURCE OF THE SPACE INSECTS, PROFESSOR.

LA-METAL HAS SENT THEM TO EARTH ON A FAIRLY REGULAR BASIS TO PREPARE FOR THE BEGINNINGS OF AVIATION...

THAT!? DOES THAT MEAN IT'S SOMETHING LIKE URANIUM?

WHEN YOU TRIED TO ANALYZE ONE OF THEM THE ENERGY BLEW UP THE OBSERVATORY. THEY USE THAT ENERGY.

THE NINE METEORITES THAT FELL ON MOUNT TSUKUBA...

UH-HUH...THE PART WE ANALYZED WAS JUST ONE TEN THOUSANDTH OF ONE OF THOSE ROCKS...

IT'S A TYPE OF MATTER THAT DOES NOT EXIST ON EARTH. AN ACCIDENT WAS INEVITABLE GIVEN YOUR COMICAL ATTEMPT TO ANALYZE IT.

SURELY YOU GOT FAR ENOUGH ALONG IN YOUR ANALYSIS TO KNOW IT COULD NOT BE ANYTHING LIKE THAT!!

SO SHOULD I THINK OF THEM AS NUCLEAR MATERIAL?

THEY ARE FOOD!!

THEY ARE NOTHING SO TROUBLESOME AND COMPLICATED AS NUCLEAR MATERIAL.

FOOD!!

THOSE NINE ROCKS??

F- F- FOOD!?

I'VE MET THEM BEFORE??

I'VE SEEN...??

YOU'RE LOOKING AT 'EM.

WHO EATS THEM?

AND I'VE MET WHO-EVER EATS THEM...

IF THOSE NINE METEORITES ARE FOOD...

THEY AREN'T FAR AWAY.

NO WAY YAYOI WOULD. AND HER PARENTS HAVE DEN-TURES...HASHIME DOESN'T GNAW ON ROCKS.

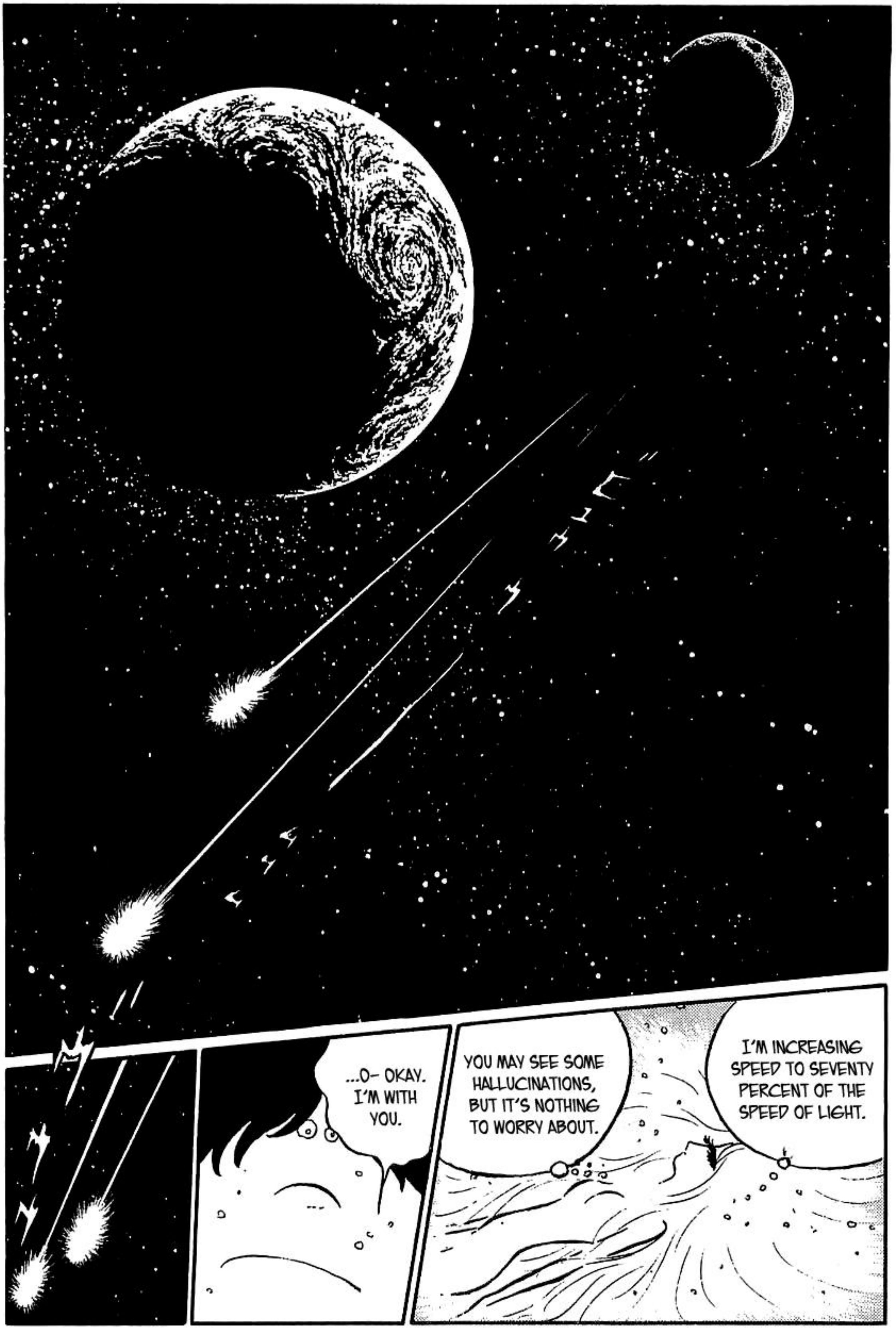
WHO IS IT THAT LOOKS LIKE THEY MIGHT EAT ONE OF THOSE...

I KNEW YOU'D FIGURE IT OUT, PROFESSOR!!

SO...WAIT NOW...JUST WAIT...SO...AH!!

NOT FAR...WHICH MEANS THEY HAVE TO BE IN THE CAVERN...

THE TWO INSEC-TA SHIPS HAVE GONE PAST THE ORBIT OF THE MOON.


...O- OKAY. I'M WITH YOU.
YOU MAY SEE SOME HALLUCINATIONS, BUT IT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
I'M INCREASING SPEED TO SEVENTY PERCENT OF THE SPEED OF LIGHT.

FOCUS ON FLYING...ON SPEED...

TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE WHEN IN-CREASING SPEED...JUST FOCUS...ON FLYING...

IT'S TRUE...THIS REALLY SEEMS LIKE A HALLU-CINATION...

WHAT HAPPENED, HASHIME!? YOU'RE OFF COURSE!! COME BACK!!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING? HASHIME!! DID SOMETHING HAPPEN!?

YAMORI!!

YOU CANNOT CHANGE YOUR COURSE. IF YOU CHANGE YOUR COURSE YOU'LL BE TAKEN FOR THE ENEMY.

I'M COMING AFTER YOU NOW. LOWER YOUR SPEED!!

I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE HE'S GOING, THOUGH...

WE'LL TRACK HASHIME FROM HERE. DON'T WORRY.

THE INSECTA SHIPS ARE FLOWN FREELY AND EASILY BY THOUGHT...WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO HASHIME...??

I SHOULD HAVE GONE... I'M SORRY.

I GUESS NOT GOING WITH HASHIME WAS A MISTAKE.

WE'LL TRACK HIM HERE AND DETERMINE HIS DESTINATION!!

I'M CALCULATING HIS COURSE AND MOVING TO RECEIVE HIM. PLEASE CONTINUE ON YOUR COURSE.

I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND IT. WHY WOULD HASHIME HAVE CHANGED COURSE...?

I SEE THEM JUST FINE. WHAT ABOUT HASHIME?

PLEASE DECELERATE. REDUCE SPEED. YOU ARE COMING UP AGAINST THE PERIMETER OF THE VANGUARD FLEET.

HAVE YOU LOST VISUAL CONTACT!?

...WELL...THAT IS...

VANISHED?

HE VANISHED. I'M SEARCHING FOR HIM RIGHT NOW.

AS YOU WISH.

LET'S END THE EXPERIMENT. REMOVE THE TRICK AND RETURN EVERYTHING AS IT WAS BEFORE. WE HAVE OUR DATA.

IT SEEMS HE WAS A BIT SHOCKED AND WENT UP TO THE OBSERVATORY TO THINK.

WHAT'S BECOME OF THE PROFESSOR?

THE UNIVERSE IS A REALLY BIG PLACE...ARE THERE BIRDS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF SPACE...?

THAT'S INSANE!!

WHAT IN THIS WORLD EATS ROCKS...

THERE'S MOUNT FUJI...!! WHAT? WE AREN'T REALLY FLOATING UP IN SPACE AT ALL!! THIS IS TOKYO!!

!?

THIS IS SPACE INSECTA SHIP IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 1000!! EARTH NAME YAYOI YUKINO!! DIRECT ME AT ONCE TO THE LOCATION OF THE COMMANDER!!

ROGER!! THE MOTHER SHIP IS THIRTEEN SPACE CLICKS BEYOND THE VANGUARD FLEET!! SOLAR SYSTEM SECTOR 287 ON THE ASTROGATION CHART.

IT IS ABNORMAL FOR AN UNDETECTABLE ESCORT SHIP TO GO MISSING.

DO YOU HAVE THE PRESENT POSITION OF THE OTHER INSECTA SHIP THAT WENT MISSING?

THE INSECTA SHIPS ARE COMPLETE IN THEMSELVES ...THERE'S A REASON THIS HAPPENED.

. WHY DID YOU COME WITHOUT AN OFFICIAL ESCORT?

PREPARING TO DOCK!! REQUEST MOTHER SHIP'S PROTON BARRIER TO BE LOWERED!!

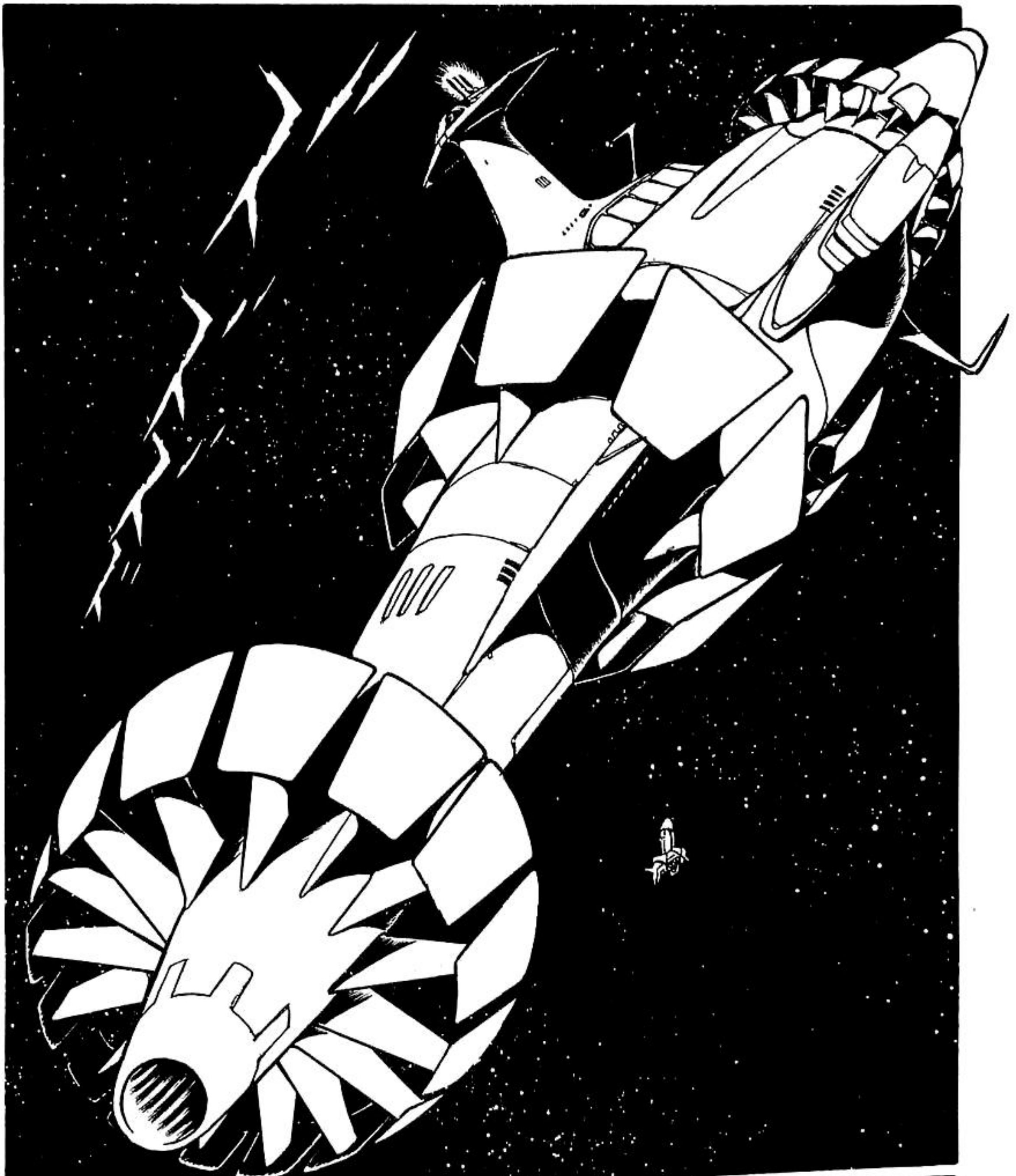
ROGER!! HOWEVER, WE ARE CURRENTLY IN THE MIDST OF BATTLE...IT WILL ONLY STAY DOWN FOR ONE SECOND!! MAKE HASTE!!

EARTH NAME YAYOI YUKINO!! MILLENNIAL QUEEN IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 1000!!

LA-METAL NAME LAR ANDROMEDA PROMETHIUM!! NOW ENTERING THE MOTHER SHIP. OPEN THE AIR LOCK!!

AIRLOCK RELEASED! PLEASE DOCK YOUR SHIP.

PROTON BARRIER IS DOWN!!


LEOPARDO... HAS COME HERE AFTER ALL...
SPACE COMBAT COMMMAND COMMAND-ER LAR FRANKEN BACH LEOPARDO!!
WHO IS THE COMMANDER OF THIS HEAVY ATTACK CRUIS-ER? WHO IS IN CHARGE?